

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

Sustained release microparticles suitable for various types of drugs, or drug-containing sustained release microparticles capable of sustained release of drugs over a period of three days or more and capable of inhibiting initial burst release; a process for producing the same; and preparations containing the microparticles are disclosed. The drug-containing sustained release microparticles comprise a drug other than human growth hormone and a porous apatite derivative, and optionally include a water-soluble bivalent metal compound. ~~The drug-containing sustained release microparticles can be produced by dispersing under agitation microparticles of a porous apatite derivative in an aqueous solution containing a drug so that the aqueous solution infiltrates into the porous apatite derivative; optionally adding an aqueous solution containing a water-soluble bivalent metal compound so that may infiltrate into the porous apatite derivative; further adding additives such as a stabilizer to the mixture; and effecting lyophilization or vacuum drying.~~